IACUC Newsflash

January 2010

University of Pittsburgh • Research Conduct and Compliance Office • Animal Care and Use Program

Semiannual IACUC Inspections

Denise K. Capozzi, VMD, DACLAM, IACUC Director, Compliance Director

Dear Researchers and Staff,

I would like to ring in the new year by thanking all of you for your dedication of time and attention to the IACUC oversight process and by providing you with a recap of the fall 2009 semi- annual review results.

Final results for the fall 2009 semiannual review reveal mostly positive findings in facilities as well as in labs. That said, in light of an imminent AAALAC inspection (late 2010), I want to take this opportunity to briefly address just six noncompliance (NC) trends observed during the last review period: 1) incomplete post-procedural cards; 2) inadequate identification of hazardous agents; 3) inadequate identification of protocol numbers on which animals have been transferred; 4) lack of notification to DLAR when housing animals greater than 12 hours; 5) lack of stocked analgesia when protocol specifies "analgesia will be given as needed"; and 6) use of non-pharmaceutical grade pentobarbital on protocols approved only for pharmaceutical grade substances. Through good communication and effective collaboration, I believe we will be able to correct these trends and move forward to show marked improvement during the upcoming spring 2010 review period. See the next page for further details.

As always, please view the Education and Compliance Office (ECO) as a resource and feel free to contact me or my staff any time with questions, concerns, or comments regarding compliance issues. See the next page for contact information. Thank you in advance for your participation in maintaining high compliance standards.

In conclusion, I want to thank researchers and staff for your ongoing dedication to excellence, and I look forward to working together in 2010. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Denise Capozzi

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Compliance Questions and Answers

Completion of Post-Procedure Cards: Why is this so important?

Completion of post-procedure cards ensures that everyone observing the animal is aware of what has been administered and when the next treatment is due. Compliance reviewers must be able to discern whether treatment is being administered as per IACUC protocol wording. Clarity is crucial. Please avoid the use of abbreviations.

Listing Protocol Numbers on Cage Cards: What are the rules for animal transfers?

An animal's cage card must always show the precise protocol number under which the animal has been purchased. An animal may only be manipulated in accordance with its designated protocol number. If you have received approval to transfer an animal to a different protocol, you must update the animal's cage-card to reflect its new protocol number.

Housing Animals > 12 Hours in Outside Use Areas: What are the rules?

- Prior DLAR and IACUC approval of the outside use area is mandatory.
- DLAR must be notified each time animals are taken from DLAR space and housed in an outside use area: 648-8950 or dlar@pitt.edu

Click here for policy wording

Pharmaceuticals vs. Nonpharmaceuticals: What about euthanasia?

Only pharmaceutical grade substances, if available, are to be used unless the IACUC has granted approval to use a nonpharmaceutical substance. This standard also applies to substances used for euthanasia.

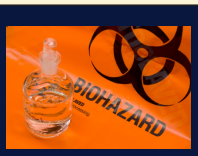
Click here for OLAW wording on this issue

Analgesics: What do I need to have on hand?

If you are performing manipulations for which analgesics are listed on your protocol, the analgesics must always be on hand. All personnel handling animals in your lab must be aware of where analgesics are storaged.

NOTE: Your analgesic regimen must match the description in your protocol.

Using Biohazardous Susbstances: Are signs and stickers sufficient?



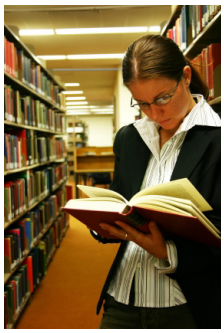
In addition to posting biohazard signs and labels, you must clearly identify any biohazardous substances by listing its full name on the exterior of the lab door and also on the animals' cage cards. Clarity is crucial. Please avoid the use of abbreviations.

Click here for more information on biohazards

To Contact the Education and Compliance Office (Animal Studies) call the main line at 412-383-1754 or email Julie Cursi at jac73@pitt.edu

What's New in the Health Sciences Library System (HSLS)

Melissa Ratajeski, MLIS, RLAT,
HSLS Faculty Reference Librarian



Classes and Books

HSLS Classes:
- No Charge
- No Registration
- Great topics

HSLS offers a variety of classes to faculty, staff, and students of the University of Pittsburgh schools of health sciences and employees of UPMC. There is no charge and no registration required. Seating for classes is first-come, first served until the class is full. Class topics include database searching (e.g. PubMed Basics), software (e.g. Advanced PowerPoint for Presentations), bibliographic management (EndNoteBasics), molecular biology and genetics (e.g. Protein Analysis Tools), and library orientations. For a complete listing of classes, visit:
www.hsls.pitt.edu/services/instruction/desc

New Books of Interest

The Rhesus Monkey Brain in Stereotaxic Coordinates
Call number: fQL937.P364 2009

Animal Models in Cardiovascular Research
Call number: RC669.G76 2009

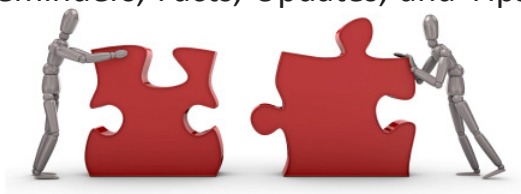
Safe Pair Housing of Macaques
Call number: SF407.P7C37 2008

These books are located within the Health Sciences Library System (www.hsls.pitt.edu) at Falk Library, 200 Scaife Hall, and can be checked out for 3 weeks.

To locate more titles of interest, search the PittCat card catalog:

http://pittcat.hsls.pitt.edu

Reminders, Facts, Updates, and Tips



Renewing Protocols

• FACT: Animals may only be housed under valid protocol numbers; therefore, timely renewal of protocols is crucial. Animals will be confiscated upon expiration of a protocol. Click here for OLAW wording on this subject.

• FACT: Renewal reminders are emailed at 90, 60, and 30-day intervals.

• TIP: Try to submit three-year renewals to the iacuc (iacuc@pitt.edu) upon the 90-day reminder, i.e., three months in advance of the protocol's expiration date.

• TIP: Include the protocol's matching EHS workbook (EHS workbook title must match protocol title). A protocol application cannot be reviewed until the IACUC receives the corresponding EHS workbook.

• TIP: Annual and three-year renewal deadlines are based upon the original approval date of the protocol. The original approval date is expressed in the first four digits of the protocol number. For example, protocol 0802999 was approved in 2008 in February, and it would expire on Feb. 28, 2011.

• FACT: Despite the fact that protocols undergo annual renewals, original approval dates do not change. The first four digits of a protocol will always reflect its original approval date.

• TIP: When filling out a new protocol application, only use the most current version. Download the most current version of an IACUC protocol application from this web address:

http://www.iacuc.pitt.edu/forms

Training

• UPDATE: Nonhuman Primate (NHP) training has been revised and will soon be available via Pitt's *Internet-Based Studies in Education and Research* (ISER). Once launched, the new NHP training module will be located with other online modules and accessible via this link: **http://cme.hs.pitt.edu** within the ***Responsible Conduct of Research*** folder.

• FACT: NHP training is a species-specific large animal training module; therefore, those handling NHPs will need to take the general large animal training module and the NHP (species-specific) training module. Online availability of the NHP module will be announced via listbot within the next couple of months.

• TIP: Until online NHP training is formally announced via listbot, consult the IACUC training chart for current training information:

www.iacuc.pitt.edu/Training/IAUCTrainingChart.pdf

• REMINDER: All online IACUC modules except *Research Integrity* must be retaken every three years.

Rodent Weaning

• REMINDER: Wean on time as per attachment 5 in your protocol.

• TIP: Click here to review the recently revised rodent breeding/weaning policy.

Semi-annual Inspections

• FACT: Semiannual inspections are required by federal law (PHS Policy IV.B 1-5). Click here to see policy wording.